

MEMORIAL

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ILLINOIS,

PRAYING THAT

CONGRESS WILL GRANT TO THAT STATE

A SUFFICIENT QUANTITY OF LAND TO ENABLE IT TO COMPLETE THE

Canal between the Illinois River and Lake Michigan.

FEBRUARY 16, 1829.—Read, and ordered to lie on the table, and to be printed.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in
Congress assembled;*

Your memorialists, the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the
General Assembly,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENT.

That, in the year 1827, an act was passed by Congress, granting to this State a quantity of land on the route of the projected canal to connect the waters of the Illinois river with those of lake Michigan, equal to one half of the land lying within the range of five sections in width on both sides of the canal, and equal in length to said canal. Your memorialists represent, that in conformity to the object contemplated by said grant, a law was passed at the present session of the General Assembly of this State, providing for the sale of the land granted by Congress to the State, and an immediate application of its proceeds to the construction of the contemplated work.

A large portion of the land embraced in that grant is low, wet, and unfit for cultivation; and, therefore, will afford but little advantage to the interests of the canal; and your memorialists are fully convinced that the available portion of that grant will not yield a fund sufficient to complete more than one half of the canal contemplated. Your memorialists deem it unnecessary to dwell upon the importance of a work of such deep interest to the people of this State, and of such great advantage to the general government. They cannot look to the resources of this State as furnishing ground for a hope that she can, in any reasonable period, complete a canal of such great extent, without further assistance from the general government. They believe that the nation feels too deep an interest in this work, to see it languish for the want of means to complete it; and they feel assured that the policy which led to this donation will be pursued until the object shall be fully attained.—

They therefore respectfully pray, that the alternate sections reserved by Congress, in their act of March, 1827, may be granted to the State of Illinois, for the purpose of enabling her to complete a navigable communication between the Illinois river and lake Michigan.

THOMAS MATHER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
WILLIAM KINNEY,
Speaker of the Senate.

Attest:
WM. LEE D. EWING,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.
E. J. WEST,
Secretary of the Senate.